



7th October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

COVID-19 Home Testing Information

At the start of this half-term, we made test kits available to all our students but, due to a pausing of testing through the summer holidays and a build up of unused test kits, we provided the option for students not to take home a test kit.

Twice-weekly asymptomatic testing of students and staff continues to be one of our key COVID-19 risk mitigation measures, and the government has confirmed that the home testing programme should remain in place throughout the rest of this term. To facilitate this, we would like to continue the regular delivery of test kits to our students through their form groups. We intend to ask all students to take home a test kit each time we replenish supplies. Once you have access to the kits we would ask that you engage with the testing process and encourage your child to test on Sunday and Wednesday evenings.

You will see from the weekly update, sent out by Mrs Sheriff, that the number of cases identified within school has risen over the past couple of weeks. In some instances, students who are attending school and subsequently develop symptoms have made it clear to us that they have not been testing on the Sunday and Wednesday as we have requested. Testing provides the highest level of protection for our school community against the virus. Any student who does not test regularly, potentially attends school with the virus affecting the education (and potentially the health) of other students when they then contract the virus.

Individuals in all year groups apart from Year 12 will be provided with a test kit to bring home tomorrow (Friday 8th October). We strongly encourage all students to take part in home testing on a Sunday and Wednesday evening so we can limit the number of asymptomatic students circulating within our school community. Year 12 students will receive their kits on Monday, but we would urge them still to test on Sunday in line with the other year groups. We will continue to refresh the test kits for your child at regular intervals up until the end of this term.

Please be aware that the lateral flow kits you receive may have different swabbing and processing requirements to the ones you have received previously. Up to now we have provided lateral flow kits that require throat and nose swabs. Our most recent delivery only requires the swabbing of the nose (both nostrils). Year 7 – 11 students will all receive the nasal-only swab test kits tomorrow (labelled 'FlowFlex'). Sixth Form students will all receive the throat and nose swabs that we have issued previously (labelled 'Innova').

Please check the leaflet within the test box entitled '*Your step-by-step guide for COVID-19 self-testing*'. This leaflet will tell you how to conduct the test and how long to process the test for. Please note that the processing instructions are not the same for the two types of test kit.

What should you do after the test?

Each time your child completes a test, you need to report their test result to [NHS Test and Trace](#). This includes **all** test results, whether positive, negative or void. You will receive a text or email from NHS Test & Trace confirming that you have reported your test result. We also ask that you report the test result to Prince Henry's through this [link](#).

Important reminders regarding when to self-isolate

If your child is displaying any of the following symptoms of COVID-19, or they develop these symptoms in between attendance times, then your child **must not attend school** and you must follow government [guidance](#) about self-isolation, including test and trace. This includes booking a **PCR test** (not a Lateral Flow Device test) for your child. The symptoms are:

- a high temperature – this means they feel hot to touch on their chest or back
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If the PCR test result is positive, your child must continue to self-isolate in line with the guidance. If the PCR test result is negative, your child can stop self-isolating and return to school, when they are well enough.

If your child tests positive for COVID-19 using a Lateral Flow Test, your child **must not attend school**. You and your household members should follow government [guidance](#), and you should arrange for your child to have a follow-up PCR test as soon as possible. If the follow-up PCR test result is positive, your child must continue to self-isolate in line with the guidance. If the follow-up PCR test result is negative, your child can stop self-isolating and return to school.

If another member of your household is displaying symptoms of COVID-19, or has tested positive, then your child **may still attend school**, provided that your child:

- has not tested positive for COVID-19
- is not displaying any symptoms of COVID-19 (unless a PCR test has confirmed a negative result)
- is under the age of 18 years and 6 months.

In these circumstances, you must still follow government [guidance](#) regarding PCR testing for household members. If your child is over the age of 18 years and 6 months, the [rules](#) regarding self-isolation will be dependent on their vaccine status.

Students returning to England from abroad must follow the current government [guidance](#) regarding testing and self-isolation.

Please contact me, as the school's test programme COVID Coordinator, if you have any questions or concerns about home testing through the info@princehenry.co.uk email address.

Thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully



Mr C Rowbottom
Associate Headteacher